

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

This amendment responds to the September 10, 2002, Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Claims 2 through 22, 27 through 55, and 60 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 16, and 60 are amended by this response.

A Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and a Petition for a two-month extension of time accompany this response. Each of these documents authorizes payment of its official fee by deposit account.


The applicant notes that in the January 10, 2003, Advisory Action, the Examiner did not enter the amendments to claims 4, 16, and 60 as proposed in the December 10, 2002, Response After Final Rejection. The Examiner did state that "if the applicant submits a statement that negates the 'similar scope' statement between claim 1 and 60, then the claim language 'recording samples of ambient noise' in claim 60 would have patentable weight .. the Kenyon reference would be overcome." (See the January 10, 2003, Advisory Action on page 2.)

The applicant acknowledges a difference in scope between claim 1 as originally filed and the proposed amendment to claim 60.

Conclusion

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A
"CLEAN" VERSION OF EACH PARAGRAPH/SECTION/CLAIM
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(ii) AND (c)(i)

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

Please amend claims 60, 4, and 16 as follows.

60. (Amended) A method for storing an electric signal representing recorded ambient noise in compressed form, the method comprising:
periodically recording samples of the ambient noise using a sound transducer;
normalizing the amplitude of a signal output of the transducer or a signal derived therefrom within a first predetermined range D;
mapping the normalized amplitude values of the sampled ambient noise onto a second predetermined range of values using a non-linear mapping function to obtain an emphasis of selected values ranges within the first or the second predetermined ranges;
storing the mapped result in an electronic memory in a digital format.

4. (Amended Three Times) A method for storing an electric signal representing recorded ambient noise in compressed form, the method comprising:
periodically recording samples of the ambient noise using a sound transducer;
normalizing the amplitude of a signal output of the transducer or a signal derived therefrom within a first predetermined range D;
mapping the normalized amplitude values of the sampled ambient noise onto a second predetermined range of values using a non-linear mapping function to obtain an emphasis of selected values ranges within the first or the second predetermined ranges;
storing the mapped result in an electronic memory in a digital format;
dividing the audio signal into at least two band signals by filtering, with each one of the band signals containing a frequency range of the audio signal, and wherein any content of the other band signals contained in each band signal is present only in an attenuated form.

16. (Amended Four Times) A method for storing an electric signal representing recorded ambient noise in compressed form, the method comprising:

periodically recording samples of the ambient noise using a sound transducer;
normalizing the amplitude of a signal output of the transducer or a signal derived therefrom within a first predetermined range D;

mapping the normalized amplitude values of the sampled ambient noise onto a second predetermined range of values using a non-linear mapping function to obtain an emphasis of selected values ranges within the first or the second predetermined ranges;

storing the mapped result in an electronic memory in a digital format; wherein the range of normalized values D is defined by a lower limit D_u , and an upper limit D_o , and wherein the normalization is effected by:

obtaining the maximum of the absolute value of the audio signal or the derived signal within the duration of normalizing the audio or derived signal, which is shorter than or equal to the duration of a hearing sample,

multiplying the reciprocal value of said maximum by $(D_o - D_u + 1)$, and
multiplying this product by each value of the audio or derived signal within the duration of the normalized signal.

APPENDIX B
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii) AND (c)(ii)

CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 60, 4, and 16 as follows.

60. (Amended) A method for storing an electric signal representing recorded ambient noise in compressed form, the method comprising:

periodically recording samples of the ambient noise using a sound transducer;

normalizing the amplitude of a signal output of the transducer or a signal derived therefrom within a first predetermined range D;

mapping the normalized amplitude values of the sampled ambient noise onto a second predetermined range of values using a non-linear mapping function to obtain an emphasis of selected values ranges within the first [and/or] or the second predetermined ranges;

storing the mapped result in an electronic memory in a digital format.

4. (Amended Three Times) [The method of claim 60, further comprising] A method for storing an electric signal representing recorded ambient noise in compressed form, the method comprising:

periodically recording samples of the ambient noise using a sound transducer;

normalizing the amplitude of a signal output of the transducer or a signal derived therefrom within a first predetermined range D;

mapping the normalized amplitude values of the sampled ambient noise onto a second predetermined range of values using a non-linear mapping function to obtain an emphasis of selected values ranges within the first or the second predetermined ranges;

storing the mapped result in an electronic memory in a digital format;

dividing the audio signal into at least two band signals by filtering, with each one of the band signals containing a frequency range of the audio signal, and wherein any content of the other band signals contained in each band signal is present only in an attenuated form.

16. (Amended Four Times) [The method of claim 60,] A method for storing an electric signal representing recorded ambient noise in compressed form, the method comprising:

periodically recording samples of the ambient noise using a sound transducer;
normalizing the amplitude of a signal output of the transducer or a signal derived therefrom within a first predetermined range D;

mapping the normalized amplitude values of the sampled ambient noise onto a second predetermined range of values using a non-linear mapping function to obtain an emphasis of selected values ranges within the first or the second predetermined ranges;

storing the mapped result in an electronic memory in a digital format; wherein the range of normalized values D is defined by a lower limit D_u , and an upper limit D_o , and wherein the normalization is effected by:

[-]obtaining the maximum of the absolute value of the audio signal or the derived signal within the duration of normalizing the audio or derived signal, which is shorter than or equal to the duration of a hearing sample,

[-]multiplying the reciprocal value of said maximum by $(D_o - D_u + 1)$, and

[-]multiplying this product by each value of the audio or derived signal within the duration of the normalized signal.